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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography directs instructors and students to several sources of information about U.S. presidential candidates, both current and historical The bibliography uses resources available through the University of Rhode Island Library, but the sources given should be available through most local public and school libraries. Topics include: (1) "Information from the Candidates"; (2) "Current Information" (5 print sources); (3) "Electronic Indexes" (11 items); (4) "Biographical Information" (5 items); (5) "Biographical Information and Past Actions" (8 items); (6) "Information about Incumbents" (2 items); and (7) "History of the Presidency" (9 items). (EH)

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY STAND FOR

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES
WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY STAND FOR
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

There are many sources of information about United States presidential candidates, both current and biographical. This bibliography directs instructors and students to some of these sources and to indexes which will lead to others. It is designed using resources available through the University of Rhode Island Library, but the sources given should be available through most local public and school libraries. This bibliography is intended for use in the months leading up to a presidential election.

INFORMATION FROM THE CANDIDATES

Candidates and their parties are eager to provide plentiful information about the candidate and the run for the presidency. Most candidates will have a **home page** on the **Internet**. One caveat is needed, however. Remember the source! Information on the candidates' home pages will probably be accurate, but it will definitely be slanted in favor of the candidate. These home pages may be found by searching the Internet using the candidate's name as a subject.

Other good source of information about candidates, although also likely to be biased, are local, regional, or national **Party Headquarters**. Check the local telephone book for telephone numbers and addresses.

CURRENT INFORMATION (Print sources):

Some of the most interesting and useful current information about presidential candidates is available through articles in newspapers and magazines. While not necessarily unbiased, they may provide a different slant from information provided by the candidate and his or her political party. One simple way to locate articles about candidates is to read current issues of news magazines, such as **Newsweek, Time,** and **U. S. News and World Reports,** as well as local, regional and national newspapers. Another way to locate articles is through the use of an **index.** Indexes are available both in print and electronic format. Some useful print indexes are:

NewsBank, 1982- . New Canaan, Conn.: NewsBank. Print index published monthly with quarterly and annual cumulations.

This is a current awareness reference service providing access to articles from the newspapers of over 450 U.S. cities. Full text articles of research value are selected from the newspapers and reproduced on microfiche each month, with a print or electronic index to the articles. Articles included in **NewsBank** address national concerns.

More in-depth coverage of biographical information can be found in a separate **NewsBank** service, **Names in the News.** Articles on newsworthy people are indexed by name and the appropriate vocational category.

Alternative Press Index. Baltimore, Md.: Alternative Press Center. Quarterly, with an annual cumulation as the fourth issue.

An author subject index to periodicals which may not be indexed in other venues. Articles are listed by subject under the most specific headings available. Many proper names serve as headings, and articles are generally listed under at least two headings.

New York Times Index, 1851-. New York: New York Times. Semimonthly with quarterly cumulations and an annual cumulation for the entire year.

An index to the **New York Times** newspaper. Articles on presidential candidates may be found under the candidates name.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, 1901-. New York: Wilson. Semimonthly (Monthly, February, July and August.)

A cumulative author subject index to English language periodicals of general interest. The main body consists of subject and author entries to periodical articles arranged in one alphabet. An abridged version (**Abridged Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature** (1935- . New York: Wilson, monthly except June-August, with annual and biennial cumulations)) is available for schools and small public libraries.

PAIS International in Print, 1915- . New York: Public Affairs Information Service. Semimonthly, with annual and 5 year cumulations.

This is one of the best indexing services in the social sciences because of its currency and extensiveness. It is a subject list of "latest books, pamphlets, government publications, reports of public and private agencies, and periodical articles relating to business, economic, and social conditions, public administration, and international relations in English throughout the world" (title cover). It can be a good source of information on how U.S. presidential candidates are viewed by foreign countries.

ELECTRONIC INDEXES

Electronic indexing services may be accessed through the Internet, through commercial services such as **INFOTRAK** and **FirstSearch**, or through CD-ROM subscription services. Three of the print indexes mentioned above are also available in electronic format. Some of the other electronic indexes cited here have print counterparts, but some do not. Examples include:

NewsBank (CD-ROM). Copyright NewsBank, Inc.

This service provides the same indexing service as **NewsBank** in print, but it may be easier to use because of the availability of key word searching.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (on-line through **FirstSearch**). Updated monthly. Copyright H. W. Wilson .

Provides coverage of popular periodicals published in the U.S. and Canada. Includes current events and news, fine arts, fashion, education, business, sports, health and nutrition, consumer affairs, and others, from 1983 to the present. Also included on **FirstSearch** is **Readers' Guide Abstracts**, which provides abstracts of selected articles indexed in the **Readers' Guide.**

PAIS Decade (on-line through **FirstSearch** and on CD-ROM). Covers the most recent decade, updated monthly on-line, quarterly on CD-ROM. Copyright Public Affairs Information Service, Inc.

More than 200,000 records representing articles, books, conference proceedings, government documents, book chapters, and statistical directories about public affairs.

Expanded Academic Index (EAI) (an **INFOTRAK** data base, available on-line and on CD-ROM)

Provides access to 1700 scholarly and general interest journals. Coverage is divided into two sections, **EAI ASAP,** which covers the last three years with weekly updates, and **EAI Backfile,** which provides coverage from 1980. This database may be used to find information on astronomy, religion, law, history, psychology, humanities, current events, sociology, communications, and the general sciences. Full text of approximately one of three articles indexed is immediately available through the service. On-line service updated daily.

FirstSearch is a subscription service which provides access to many electronic databases. Those most useful in finding information about presidential candidates include **PAIS Decade, Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Readers' Guide Abstracts**, and the following:

FactSearch. Copyright Pierian Press, 1996.

Provides facts and statistics from some 300 works, including newspapers, periodicals, the Congressional Record, and Congressional hearings.

Newspaper Abstracts (also available on CD-ROM). Copyright University Microfilms, Inc., 1996.

Provides coverage of over 25 national and regional newspapers from 1989 to the present. Updated weekly on-line, quarterly on CD-ROM.

Social Sciences Index. (Also available in print). Copyright the H.W. Wilson Company.

Covers more than 350 international, English-language periodicals in sociology, anthropology, geography, economics, political science and law. Coverage is from February 1983 to the present. Updated quarterly.

ArticleFirst. Copyright OCLC, 1996.

Covers nearly 12,500 journals in science, technology, medicine, social science, business, the humanities, and popular culture. Coverage is from 1990 to the present. Updated daily. A subset of the articles is available for on-line viewing or e-mail delivery through a service called **FastDoc.**

Periodical Abstracts. (also available on CD-ROM). Copyright University Microfilms, Inc., 1996.

Covers over 1500 general and academic journals, covering business, current affairs, economics, literature, religion, psychology, women's studies, and others topics. Coverage is from 1986 to the present, with weekly updates (quarterly for CD-ROM).

GPO Monthly Catalog (also available on CD-ROM and in print). Available from the United States General Printing Office.

An index of over 380,000 records on all subjects of interest to the U.S. government. Coverage is from July 1976 to the present for both the on-line and CD-ROM versions, and from 1895 through 1995 for the print version.

In addition to these on-line products, information about presidential candidates may be found in the on-line and CD-ROM versions of **ERIC**.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

In addition to current information, biographical information on presidential candidates is available. Sources of this will vary based on the background of the candidate. Most political party candidates are in the public spotlight, whether they be career politicians, political commentators, business people, or religious leaders. The following general sources are useful for finding information on any of these people:

Biography and Genealogy Master Index 1994. Barbara McNeil, ed. Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. 1994.

A consolidated index to more than 450,000 biographical sketches in over 95 current and retrospective biographical dictionaries. A key to source codes is given on the inside front cover, and detailed bibliographic information about the sources appears in the front of the first volume. This is a good first source to use, and will direct one to biographical sketches in, among others:

Biography Index: A Cumulative Index to Biographical Information in Books and Magazines. New York: Wilson, 1947- . Quarterly with annual and 3 year cumulations. Also available on-line and on CD-ROM.

A guide to biographical material appearing in periodicals indexed in other Wilson Company indexes, selected additional periodicals, current books of individual and collective biography, and incidental biographical material in otherwise non-biographical books. The Index is comprehensive in scope and is intended to serve general and scholarly reference needs. Biographical information indexed includes obituaries, collections of letters, diaries, memoirs, juvenile literature, book reviews and bibliographies. The main section consists of entries arranged alphabetically by the last name of the biographee.

Current Biography. New York: Wilson, 1940- . Monthly except December.

Published monthly, from January through November. Each issue contains fifteen to twenty biographical essays, arranged alphabetically and a cumulative index for the year's issues to that point. At the end of each year, the essays from the eleven monthly issues are cumulated in one alphabet in the **Current Biography Yearbook.** The yearbook also provides an index by profession for the current year, as well as a cumulative index to yearbooks from the current decade. The 1995 edition is the 56th annual cumulation and includes an index for 1991-1995. When looking for information on political candidates who have been prominent for an extended time, it would be wise to check earlier cumulative indexes, such as the 1981-1990 or the 1940-1985.

Who's Who in America. New Providence, NJ: Marquis, 1899- . Biennial.

This is a general biographical work which contains information about persons believed to have reference interest. Reference value is based on either the position of responsibility held by the biographee or the level of significant achievement attained in a career of noteworthy activity. Candidates for the presidency will quite often fall into one or both of these categories, making this a good preliminary source of information about them.

Who's Who of American Women. New Providence, NJ: Marquis, 1958- .

In 1958, Marquis Who's Who published the first edition of this work. Since that time there has been an increasing interest and need for the biographical data of successful American women. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, the principle of current reference value (see previous entry) determines selection of biographees. While there has not yet been a female presidential candidate, this will be a useful resource when that time comes.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND PAST ACTIONS

For candidates who are currently elected officials, whether at the state or federal level, the following can be useful sources of biographical information, as well as voting records and records of actions while in office:

Official Congressional Directory. Washington, D.C.: GPO. 1809- . Annual.

This is a combination of biography and directory. It includes a biographical section on members of Congress, an alphabetical list of members of Congress, committees, committee assignments, the Executive Branch, the judiciary, administrative or legislative assistants and secretaries, the District of Columbia, international organizations and others, as well as an index of individual names.

Congressional Staff Directory. Mount Vernon, Va.: Staff Directories, Ltd. 1959- . Issued three times per year (February, May and August.)

This work focuses on the staff of the members of Congress and features over 3,000 staff biographies. It also includes information on members of Congress, their assignments, committees, and key personnel of the Executive Branch, and, in this respect, duplicates the **Official Congressional Directory.** There are also a keyword subject index and an index of individuals.

Congressional Voting Guide. Victor W. Bosnich. New York: Wilson, 1992.

This is a ten-year compilation of the voting records of members the 102nd Congress on selected important measures. It covers 144 major bills, including nominations, amendments and veto overrides. The guide is divided in two major parts: House Voting Records and Senate Voting Records. Each part is arranged alphabetically by state and presents for each member of Congress a brief biography followed by a list of measures with an indication of how the member voted on each issue. Earlier versions of this work were produced by different publishers, and further versions should be forthcoming. Both the most current and earlier versions should be checked to find information on the voting records of presidential candidates while they were in the Legislature.

The Almanac of American Politics 1996. The Senators, the Representatives and the Governors: Their Records and Election Results, Their States and Districts. Michael Barone and Grant Ujifusa. Washington, D.C.: National Journal, 1987- .

The subtitle of this work describes very succinctly its contents. It includes biographical information on each state's senators, representatives and governor. There is also included a full text copy of the 1994 "Contract with America" proposed by the Republican Party. A complete and comprehensive index completes the book.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989. Centennial ed. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1989.

This outstanding reference work consists of two categories of information. The first is a directory of executive officers from 1789-1989 and the Continental Congress. The second is a listing of biographies of more than 10,800 individuals divided into two sections, biographies of Presidents who were not members of Congress and biographies of those who have served in Congress.

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Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1946- .

This is a news service providing reports on the executive branch, major legislative actions, court decisions, party politics, and on various other subjects. It can be an excellent source of information on the actions of political candidates, and is a good companion to the following volume.

Congressional Quarterly Almanac. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1945- . Issued annually.

This is a compendium of legislation for one session of Congress taken from **CQ Quarterly Report**, which reviews legislative and executive actions. It provides current information on legislative action.

The State Yellow Book. Washington: Leadership Directories. Issued quarterly.

In addition to information on the workings of state governments, this work provides biographical information about state officials. It can be a good source of information on presidential candidates who are or have been state governors and have never been in Congress.

INFORMATION ABOUT INCUMBENTS

For the incumbent candidate (current president, running for re-election), the following sources provide information on the candidate's actions while in office:

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1965-..

This work provides the text of presidential materials released during the previous week, including presidential addresses, appointments and nominations, communications to Congress, and other statements. It also includes a monthly dateline, lists of laws approved by the president, and a checklist of White House releases.

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1957- .

Volumes of this service incorporate all of the material originally published in the **Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents.** It provides subject and names indexes, with appendixes of supplementary material such as the president's public schedule, White House announcements, and a list of public and private laws.

HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENCY

To understand why candidates are eager to become president of the United States, it is helpful to be familiar with the office of the presidency and some of its history. Books detailing the history of the presidency, discussing the current state of the presidency, and providing details about past political races are plentiful. A representative sample of this material includes:

Race for the Presidency: Winning the 1992 Nomination. Rhodes Cook. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1991.

This book analyzes past voting behavior and current political conditions state by state with the presidential nominating rules, and the vital demographics that constitute each state.

Political Parties and Elections in the United States: An Encyclopedia. L. Sandy Maisel and Charles Bassett. New York: Garland Publishing, 1991.

This work is the joint effort of more than 250 scholars to provide a research tool for students of political parties and elections providing a range of materials on a wide variety of subjects. This source can be used to find names and dates, basic data on the history and current operations of political parties, rudimentary information on the individuals who have played key roles in the functioning of political parties and the electoral process, and bibliographical information. This can be an indispensable tool for analyzing American political parties and elections.

Guide to the 1992 Presidential Election. Michael L. Goldstein. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1991.

The stated purpose of this book is to facilitate citizen interest and participation in the presidential selection process. It is meant to provide the structure for a course or discussion focusing broadly on the presidential selection process or to be uses as one source for exploring a particular dimension of presidential elections.

Encyclopedia of the American Presidency. Leonard V. Levy and Louis Fisher, eds. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.

This multi-volume work seeks to fill the need for a single comprehensive reference work that treats the subject of the American presidency in a multidisciplanary way. It includes biographical entries on each president and vice president and selected first ladies, as well as also-rans, executive officials, and members of the judiciary. It also includes articles on the powers and prerogatives of the office, the multiple roles of the president, and relationships with Congress and the judiciary.

Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Presidency. Michael Nelson, ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1989.

This work seeks to provide a needed resource for those seeking to understand the presidency. It includes facts about the presidency past and present and provides helpful direction to other sources of information.

Historic Documents on Presidential Elections, 1787-1988. Michael Nelson, ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1991.

The author has attempted here to choose the seventy most important, interesting, and illustrative of the many thousands of campaign speeches, party platforms, newspaper articles, congressional debates, and other written and spoken artifacts of two centuries of national politics. He has done this by including documents which he believes embody either the most significant activities of particular presidents or the major landmarks in the development of the presidency as an institution, with the emphasis on the institution.

Historic Documents on the Presidency, 1776-1989. Michael Nelson, ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1989.

This is a unique one-volume collection of documents on the presidency. Emphasis is placed on the development of the presidency as an institution, while including documents that embody the most memorable and significant activities of individual presidents.

The Presidency A to Z; A Ready Reference Encyclopedia. Michael Nelson, ed. Congressional Quarterly's Encyclopedia of American Government, vol. 11. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1992.

This work explains the history and working of the presidency in encyclopedic format. In it, the author seeks to explain the presidency in terms of both the office and the person, the presidency and the president, through the history of the office and the background, personality, and leadership skills of the persons who have occupied the office.

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The Pursuit of the White House: A Handbook of Presidential Election Statistics and History. G. Scott Thomas. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1987.

This book provides statistical summaries of the fifty Presidential elections occurring from 1789 through 1984. It also presents the records of the candidates, political parties, and states involved in those contests.

This is not an exhaustive listing of sources about the presidency by any means. Others may be found in the library catalog, under the subject headings of "Political Parties," "Political Science," and "Presidents and the Presidency."

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